

# SmeethTs off with win over Clewley

MG driver Paul Smeeth started with a win at the Bentley Drivers Club meeting. Richard Wright reports

Paul Smeeth and David Clewley were as predictably entertaining as ever, providing a lead battle of ever changing fortunes before Smeeth took the chequered flag in the MG T Championship & ACOC scratch race. Smeeth's TC beat the TB of Clewley off the line, as Adrian Hall charged through the field to join them. Then they had to do it all again as Frank Vautier rolled his MG YA at Luffield. And do it again they did, although Hall's second rocket start proved too much for his AC Ace's gearbox, which exploded after a lap.

Clewley took the lead on the second lap, but couldn't shake off Smeeth, who regained the lead three laps later and held on to the end. The MGA of Graham Coles was a distant third, clear of Alastair Naylor's TC. Then, on its annual race outing, Andy Shepherd's road AC Ace finished fractionally ahead of Peter Lanfranchi's Aceca.

The middle of the grid was

certainly not where Iain Stewart should have started the slower cars' Handicap race from and, after he translated that start into an easy win, the Morgan Super Aero driver will not find the handicappers as generous next time.

Bentleys spanning six decades lined up for their Scratch race. Peter Morley used Napier power to take the lead, but it was Tim Llewellyn who took control, and, even though his 3/8 was sounding less than healthy towards the end, held on as Adam Stacy-Marks closed in his Mk VI. Morley wasn't far behind either, while a late charge with the fastest car on the track yielded fourth for Susan Shoosmith in a Mk VI/S1 Special. The same car later won the Bentley Handicap race in the hands of Stephen Shoosmith.

The Bentley/Lagonda Handicap race was won by Jeremy Brewster in a Lagonda, but was shortened after Fred Zimmer crashed at Copse. Zimmer, although complaining of chest pains after breaking the steering wheel in the accident,

wasn't thought to have any serious injuries. His Alvis however, had destroyed a sizeable section of barrier, which took around 45 minutes to repair.

That led to the cancellation of two races, so the Morgans lost the chance to compete for the Morris Stapleton Trophy. The Tony Morgan-Tipp Memorial race went ahead though, and was won in dominant fashion by Matthew Wurr. Craig Jones lost second to Peter Garland, then regained it when Garland hit engine trouble.

The Vintage and PVT cars lost their Scratch race, but had a Handicap race which Tony Metcalfe won in a Lagonda Rapier. The faster cars' Handicap race saw Graham White just hold off the similar Morgan Plus 8 of Martin Kurrein.

First lap leader Matthew Wurr retired his Morgan after hearing a noise coming from the engine, leaving Andy Shepherd to take the Allcomers' Scratch race, and his first win of the year, in his AC Cobra.

**ALLCOMERS' (SLOWER CARS) HANDICAP (8 LAPS)** 1 Iain Stewart (1.3 Morgan Super Aero), 10m08.31s, 73.98mph; 2 Fred Zimmer (4.3 Alvis), 10m23.42s; 3 Peter Flood (3.8 Jaguar XK120), 7 laps; 4 Mark Butterworth (2.0 Ael St. Phall), 7; 5 Peter Lanfranchi (2.0 AC Aceca), 7; 6 Joe Harding (4.5 Lagonda), 7. **Fastest lap** Lew Bergonzi (1.8 MGB), 1m17.05s, 76.58mph.

**BENTLEY SCRATCH RACE (10 LAPS)** 1 Tim Llewellyn (8.4 3/8), 12m52.50s, 76.38mph; 2 Adam Stacy-Marks (6.8 Mk VI), 12m53.42s; 3 Peter Morley (24.0 Napier), 10 laps; 4 Susan Shoosmith (4.9 Mk VI/S1 Spl), 10; 5 Hawkeye Wikander (8.0 3/8), 10; 6 Stanley Mann (8.0 3/8), 10. **Fastest lap** Shoosmith, 1m13.95s, 79.79mph.

**MG T CHAMPIONSHIP AND ACOC SCRATCH RACE (10 LAPS)** 1 Paul Smeeth (1.4 MG TC), 12m45.71s,

77.06mph; 2 David Clewley (1.4 MG TB), 12m50.57s; 3 Graham Coles (1.6 MGA), 10 laps; 4 Alastair Naylor (1.5 MG TC), 10; 5 Andy Shepherd (2.0 AC Ace), 10; 6 Peter Lanfranchi (2.0 AC Aceca), 10. **Fastest lap** Smeeth 1m15.32s, 78.34mph.

**BENTLEY/LAGONDA HANDICAP (5 LAPS)** 1 Jeremy Brewster (4.5 Lagonda), 7m05.56s, 64.56mph; 2 Alastair Barker (4.5 Lagonda V12 LM), 7m07.80s; 3 Mark Butterworth (4.4 Lagonda L645), 5 laps; 4 Tony Moy (3.0 Bentley 3 litre), 5; 5 Colin Cowdrey (4.4 Bentley 3/4 1/2), 5; 6 Caroline Bradford (4.2 Bentley 4 1/2), 5. **Fastest lap** Gerard McCosh (4.9 Bentley Mk VI/S1), 1m16.24s, 77.39mph.

**TONY MORGAN-TIPP MEMORIAL SCRATCH RACE FOR MORGANS (8 LAPS)** 1 Matthew Wurr (4.6 Plus 8), 8m44.27s, 90.04mph; 2 Craig Jones (4.4 Plus 8), 8m55.27s; 3 James Edgerton (4.6 Plus 8), 8 laps; 4 Mike Fellows (4.5 Plus 8), 8; 5 Keith Ahlers (4.6 Plus 8), 8; 6 Malcolm Paul (3.9 Plus 8), 8. **Fastest lap** Wurr & Peter Garland (4.6 Plus 8), 1m04.48s, 91.51mph.

**VINTAGE AND PVT HANDICAP (8 LAPS)** 1 Tony Metcalfe (1.1 Lagonda Rapier), 12m00.80s, 68.33mph; 2 Tim Wakeley (1.1 Rapier), 12m24.01s; 3 Andy Abraham (1.1 Morgan SS), 8 laps; 4 Tony Luddington (1.5 Aston Martin LM), 8; 5 Joe Harding (4.5 Lagonda), 8; 6 Geoff Thomas (1.3 Fiat Balilla), 8. **Fastest lap** John May (1.5 Maserati 6CM), 1m14.74s, 78.95mph.

**ALLCOMERS' (FASTER CARS) HANDICAP (8 LAPS)** 1 Graham White (3.9 Morgan Plus 8), 9m28.02s, 92.01mph; 2 Martin Kurrein (4.0 Morgan Plus 8), 9m29.17s; 3 Marshall Bailey (2.5 Cooper Monaco), 8 laps; 4 Simon Orebi Gann (3.9 Morgan Plus 8), 8; 5 Colin Treble (4.0 Morgan Plus 8), 8; 6 Nick Pannell (3.9 MGB V8), 8. **Fastest lap** Malcolm Beer (3.9 MGB GT V8), 1m05.05s, 90.71mph.

**BENTLEY HANDICAP (8 LAPS)** 1 Stephen Shoosmith (4.9 Mk VI/S1 Spl), 11m07.71s, 77.67mph; 2 Clive Morley (4.4 4 1/2), 11m12.64s; 3 John Percival (4.4 4 1/2), 8 laps; 4 Michael Waterhouse (4.4 4 1/2), 8; 5 Simon Llewellyn (4.4 3/4 1/2), 8; 6 Sir Ralph Robins (4.3 4 1/2), 8. **Fastest lap** Shoosmith, 1m13.05s, 80.77mph.

**ALLCOMERS' SCRATCH RACE (10 LAPS)** 1 Andy Shepherd (5.3 AC Cobra), 10m44.72s, 91.52mph; 2 Malcolm Beer (3.9 MGB GT V8), 10m54.36s; 3 Malcolm Mitton (1.6 Mallock Mk28), 10 laps; 4 Steve Williams (3.9 MGB V8), 10; 5 Mike Fellows (4.5 Morgan Plus 8), 10; 6 Ian Walker (2.0 Westfield SEI), 10. **Fastest lap** Craig Jones (4.4 Morgan Plus 8), 1m02.87s, 93.85mph.



Frank Vautier rolls his MG YA at Luffield